

## Nunes gets raisins added to humanitarian aid list

Raisins are now on the menu of humanitarian food items that can be sent from the United States to hungry citizens of countries around the world, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

In a letter to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Director Andrew Natsios, Mr. Nunes was joined by more than two dozen colleagues calling for the inclusion of raisins in humanitarian aid to Iraq.

"I believe that it is important for U.S. food aid not only to carry the flag of our nation, but also to consist of

commodities produced by American farmers," said Mr. Nunes, a member of the Committee on Agriculture.

USAID recently agreed to include raisins on the list of items available for humanitarian aid. The new listing will permit raisins to compete with other U.S. agriculture commodities for use in humanitarian operations.

"While USAID's global food relief efforts are focused on serving nutritional needs, we are able to increase the local benefits of these programs by including raisins grown in the San Joaquin Valley," Mr. Nunes said.

Congress earmarked \$250 million in funding for food aid programs in the current year, including relief operations in Iraq and other countries.

The purchase of raisins from California farmers will serve the nutritional needs of hungry people anywhere, as well as provide relief to farmers suffering from the worst agriculture economy since the Great Depression. This dual benefit represents the best possible investment of tax dollars and would extend the benefits of humanitarian relief operations to farmers in the United States.

### Quick Facts

*During the August recess, in which Congress is out of session, Rep. Devin Nunes spent time talking with residents in Fresno and Tulare counties, as well as traveling to South America with the House Committee on Agriculture on an ag trade mission. He also traveled to Missouri to participate in a tour of Midwest agriculture and to Israel to see what the billions of dollars in U.S. taxpayer dollars pay for in support of that country.*



**Rep. Nunes visits with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on a visit to Israel.**

## Nunes announces grant awards for firefighters

Lindsay and Porterville fire departments are getting tens of thousands of dollars in federal funds to help train and equip firefighters serving both of those communities, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

The City of Porterville will receive \$136,170, which officials plan to use on rescue techniques training and replacing out-dated breathing apparatus air tanks, among other things.

The City of Lindsay will receive \$26,113 in funds, which will be used to buy breathing apparatus and portable radios for the cities three full-time and 14 volunteer fire fighters.

"I'm happy to do my part in helping ensure the safety of residents in my district by making sure our hardworking fire fighters have the equipment and training they need to do their jobs," said Mr. Nunes. "Both Lindsay and Porterville do an excellent job serving the commu-

nity and these funds should go a long way to continue that tradition."

Porterville Fire Chief Frank Guyton said he was excited about the grant award and will be putting in orders for equipment later this month.

"The added training and equipment are greatly needed and will be a tremendous benefit for the community," he said.

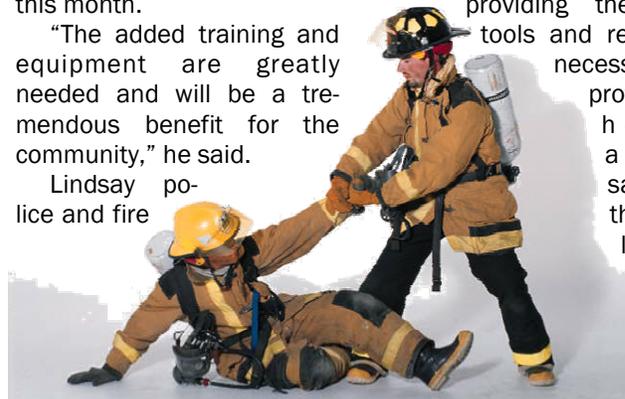
Lindsay police and fire

chief Bert Garzelli agreed.

"This grant funding will allow the Lindsay Fire Services to provide the latest breathing apparatus and personal safety devices to our fire fighters. We will also greatly enhance our communications ability with other fire departments through the

purchase of 14 portable hand held radios," Mr. Garzelli said.

Both cities are receiving funds through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The program seeks to support departments by providing them the tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their fire-



fighting personnel.

These grant awards will be used to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, fund fire fighter health and safety programs, acquire new fire apparatus, enhance EMS programs, and conduct fire prevention and safety programs.